

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 47-166 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-46 have been cancelled. Claims 47-166 are newly added. Claims 47-166 will be examined on their merits. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to improve the clarity of the application by correcting clerical errors.

A. Amendments to Specification

Applicants submit that the specification has been amended hereinabove to further improve the clarity of the application by correcting typographical and other clerical errors.

B. Amendments to Claims

In the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-46 as originally filed without prejudice, in favor of newly added claims 47-166 to clarify Applicants' claimed invention.

C. Newly Added Claims

The newly added claims submitted herein, claims 47-166 recite subject matter that was originally disclosed in the present application, as filed. The newly added claims 47-166 are for clarification purposes only. Support for the newly added claims 47-166 may be found through out the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, support for the phrase "UDP-glucose binding domain" recited in claims 47, 58, 61, 67, 73, 82, 107, 154, and 162 is found, for example, at page 11, line 13. Support for the phrase "sequence conservative variant" recited in claims 47, 51, 52, 73, and 154 is found, for example, at page 7, line 13 and page 11, line 18. Support for the phrase "stress-inducible" recited in claim 54 is found, for example, at page 4, line 7-8. Support for the phrases " positive MSRE" and "negative MSRE" recited in claims 55, 56, 89, 90, 91, 95, 99, 103, 107, 108, 114, 122, 135, and 143 is found, for example, at page 31, lines 20-23. Support for the phrase "75% similarity" recited in claims 61, 67, 82, and 162 is found, for example, at page 14, line 23. Support for the phrase "function conservative variant" recited in claims 61, 67, 82, and 162 is found, for example, at page 7, line 17. Support for the phrase "second and third transmembrane region of cellulose synthase" recited in claim 63 is found, for example, at page 14, line 12. Support

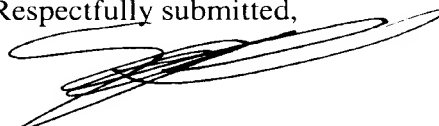
for the phrase "increase in crystalline content" recited in claims 79 and 160 is found, for example, at page 15, line 37.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the newly added claims 47-166 are fully supported by the parent application. No new matter was added with the introduction of the newly added claims.

Furthermore, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the fact that the newly added claims 47-166 may all be searched under the same field of invention. The claims are simply different aspects of the same disclosed subject matter, i.e., plant cellulose synthase (polynucleotide, polypeptide, promoter and methods of using same to alter gene expression). As such, a single search directed to cellulose synthase involved in plants would readily cover all claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and solicit an early notice of allowance. In the event that there are any issues that can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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